

## **An Important Page in Women's History**

**In a long, hard fought battle of 72 years 26 million people in 1920 won the right to vote by an action taken by Tennessee. Do you know who the 26 million people were? Do you know what action Tennessee took? This is a part of Tennessee's and United States' women's history that far too many people aren't aware of.**

**Women in the United States in 1920 numbered around 26 million and because of Tennessee's ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, women were granted the right to vote. August 26<sup>th</sup> was established as *Women's Equality Day*, the actual date in 1920 that the U.S. Secretary of State signed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. *Women's Equality Day* has been celebrated by many for 43 years even though this year marks the 94<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of women's right to vote. In 1971, which was 51 years after the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed, Bella Abzug got Congress to designate the day to recognize and celebrate women's right to vote.**

**The Suffrage Movement was the largest, most peaceful revolution in America, yet it is hardly mentioned in our nation's history. We should all know our history and appreciate the tremendous efforts of our foremother to emancipate women so we could have a voice in our nation. Plan to celebrate Equality Day tomorrow! But, we need to use our collective voices still today to call for equal rights and equal pay for women, and exercise our right to vote at every opportunity!**

**Pat Pierce**